

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-9 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A data processing ~~system~~ apparatus which allocates ~~necessary groups of~~ resources to requesting clients, comprising:  
grouping means for defining groups of resources;  
group management means for managing the groups defined by said grouping means;  
detection means, responsive to a request from a client that demands a specific group of resources, for detecting whether the requested group includes a member resource currently used by any other client;

determination means for determining, if said detection means has detected a member resource in use, whether the detected member resource is to be modified by any other client currently using the detected member resource; and

permission means for permitting the requesting client to make access to the requested group of resources ~~when said detection means finds that none of the member resources of the requested group are being used by any other client, and~~ when said determination means finds that neither any other client currently using the detected member resource nor the requesting client intends to modify the detected member resource in use.

2. (currently amended) The data processing ~~system~~ apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising allocation right memory means for storing information about whether each client has a right to be allocated a group,

wherein said permission means examines the information stored in said allocation right memory means and rejects the request if the requesting client has no right to be allocated a group.

3. (currently amended) The data processing ~~system~~apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising grouping right memory means for storing information about whether each client has a right to define a new group,

wherein said grouping means examines the information stored in said grouping right memory means and rejects the request if the requesting client has no right to define a new group.

4. (currently amended) The data processing ~~system~~apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said grouping of resources includes addition or removal of a member resource to/from an existing group.

5. (currently amended) The data processing ~~system~~apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said group management means further manages a valid period of each group and automatically removes such a group whose valid period has expired.

6. (currently amended) The data processing ~~system~~apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detection means and determination means operate on a group-by-group basis.

7. (currently amended) A computer readable medium ~~storing a program encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method~~ which allocates necessary groups of resources to requesting clients, the program causing a computer system to function as performed by a computer, the method comprising:

~~grouping means for defining groups of resources;~~

~~group management means for managing the defined groups defined by said grouping means;~~

~~detection means, responsive to a request from a client that demands a specific group of resources, for detecting whether the requested group includes a member resource that is currently used by any other client~~ responsive to a request from a client that demands a specific group of resources;

~~determination means for determining, if said detection means has detected a member resource in use, whether the detected member resource is to be modified by any other client currently using the detected member resource; and~~

~~permission means for permitting the requesting client to make access to the requested group of resources when said detection means finds that none of the member resources of the~~

~~requested group are being used by any other client, and when said determination means finds it~~  
is determined that neither any other client currently using the detected member resource nor the requesting client intends to modify the detected member resource in use.

8. (currently amended) A data processing ~~system~~apparatus which allocates groups of resources to requesting clients, the ~~system~~apparatus comprising:

means for determining whether a member resource of a requested group of resources is currently in use by ~~another~~a client, and whether the member resource is to be modified by the client currently using the member resource; and

means for permitting a requesting client to access the requested group of resources ~~when none of the member resources of the requested group are in use, and when~~ neither the client currently using the member resource nor the requesting client intend to modify the member resource in use.

9. (currently amended) A computer readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method of allocating groups of resources to requesting clients performed by a computer, the method comprising:

determining whether a member resource of a requested group of resources is currently in use by ~~another~~a client, and whether the member resource is to be modified by the client currently using the member resource; and

permitting a requesting client to access the requested group of resources ~~when none of the member resources of the requested group are in use, and when~~ neither the client currently using the member resource nor the requesting client intend to modify the member resource in use.